



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Jolene Holgate | 928.308.4174
Chrissy Largo | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie promotes domestic violence awareness

Thoreau, N.M. – Last Thursday, Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) presented to a group of his constituents at a Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness Conference at the Thoreau Chapter House.

The event was part of a series of conferences hosted by Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services, focusing on the impacts of domestic violence on children, married couples, and families.

Delegate Yazzie shared his personal experiences with life choices, prayer, and family.

Speaking before a crowd of approximately 40 community members, Delegate Yazzie shared a story of his wife's pregnancy years ago which nearly resulted in the loss of her life due to complications during labor.

"That day to actually hear the doctor say 'do you have a pastor to be with you right now?' just killed me. My wife had a really slim chance of making it." said Delegate Yazzie.

Delegate Yazzie explained that the overall message of the story is the importance of prayer and human life.

"You have got to believe in your prayers and you have got to believe in your family. This is why I say pray in your own way. Believe in yourself and continue your prayers and be as strong as you can." said Yazzie.

As a former police officer, Yazzie dealt with a lot of situations involving domestic violence and said he understands the negative impacts it has on children and their families.

"I've seen firsthand the detrimental affects of domestic violence and I felt it was important to share my experiences with my community to tell them that they can overcome adversity and live a positive life," Delegate Yazzie said.

Also in attendance was Davina Segay with the Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services, who serves as the coordinator for the Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative.

"What we are trying to do is go into the communities and put up Domestic Violence Prevention activities and conferences for the awareness and self-prevention education. A lot of times we have community members who do not know that they are in a domestic violence relationship because it may be considered normal behavior to them and something that they grew up in their own homes," said Segay.

DVPI has previously hosted domestic violence conferences in Sanders, Luepp, Thoreau, and Crownpoint. The next scheduled conference will be held in Tuba City, on Feb. 4.

DVPI works with domestic violence shelters within the Navajo Nation at sites located in Chinle, Keyenta, Shiprock and Gallup.

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